

MEMORANDUM

SUBJECT: Guidance for Calendar Year 2012

This memorandum provides guidance to the Ocean Research Advisory Panel (ORAP) from the National Ocean Council (Council) for calendar year 2012, in accordance with Department of Defense (DoD) direction regarding Federal Advisory Committee operations. It specifies agenda topics and requests to ORAP for advice and guidance, and supplements the existing Operating Principles for Interaction between the Council and ORAP.

Meeting Schedule and Agenda Development

ORAP should meet 2-3 times each calendar year, unless it is agreed upon among the ORAP Chair, ORAP Designated Federal Official (DFO), and the Council Steering Committee (through the Council Office and Director) that a revised meeting schedule is appropriate based on the topics ORAP is addressing at the Council's request. ORAP meetings should be held in Washington, D.C. Pending availability of funding, one meeting per year may be held outside of Washington, D.C. at a location and date agreed upon among the ORAP Chair, ORAP DFO, and the Council Steering Committee (through the Council Office and Director). The DFO (or alternate DFO) will prepare and approve all ORAP meeting agendas. It is expected that agendas will be developed in cooperation among the ORAP DFO, ORAP Chair, and the Council Steering Committee (through the Council Office and Director).

Meeting Agendas and Requests to ORAP from the Council

The first ORAP meeting of 2012 should include the following agenda items:

- Official appointment procedures
- Ethics training
- Federal Advisory Committee Act training (processes and rules)
- Wrap-up of topics from previous ORAP meetings
 - Approve report from Workshop on Offshore Energy Permitting
 - Summarize status of other topics
- Topics for ORAP advice and guidance (See Attachment for details)
 - Implementing ecosystem-based management
 - Leveraging ocean education opportunities
 - Balancing ocean infrastructure with ocean research
 - Policy Issues for National Ocean Council consideration (ongoing)
- Status of ORAP subpanels

Each ORAP meeting should also include the following agenda items:

- Official appointment procedures, as needed
- Update from Council Office (including Governance Coordinating Committee update as appropriate)

- Public comment period
- ORAP input on policy issues that may benefit from Council and/or ORAP consideration

Future Meetings and Requests for Input

Details on future taskings, their timing in terms of ORAP meeting agendas, and the nature of the request to ORAP will be provided in separate memoranda, including a deadline. If during the course of any year additional topics come to light that the Council would like ORAP to consider – or changes are required to the current tasking statement – the Council Steering Committee (through the Council Office and Director) will provide a separate memorandum to the DFO outlining the request and providing relevant details and direction, including a deadline to be approved by the Secretary of the Navy.

ORAP may also suggest for the Council's consideration high-level, interagency issues that ORAP members agree may benefit from Council deliberation and/or ORAP advice and guidance. These topics will be communicated through the ORAP DFO to the Council Office and Director and include the specific questions or concerns on which Council or ORAP input would be focused. The Council will then determine whether the topic will be considered either by ORAP or the Council.

ORAP Subpanels

Establishment of subpanels will be based on a written determination, to include terms of reference, by the Secretary of Defense, the Deputy Secretary of Defense or the advisory committee's sponsor. Four ORAP subpanels (see below) currently exist but are not populated. Members will be appointed in the same manner as ORAP members as outlined in the current ORAP charter and accompanying DoD guidance memorandum and membership balance plan. The establishment of any additional subpanels will be agreed upon in cooperation among the ORAP Chair, ORAP DFO, and the Council Steering Committee (through the Council Office and Director), and approved through DoD.

Current Subpanels: Industry, Education, Ocean Obs, Ocean Acidification (Task Force)

ATTACHMENT

Implementing Ecosystem-based Management

Overview

Ecosystem-based management (EBM) is an integrated approach to resource management that considers the entire ecosystem, including humans. It requires managing ecosystems as a whole instead of separately managing their individual components or uses. EBM considers all the elements that are integral to ecosystem functions and accounts for economic and social benefits as well as environmental stewardship concerns. It also recognizes that ecosystems are not defined or constrained by political boundaries. The concept of EBM is underpinned by sound science and adaptive management as information or changing conditions present new challenges and opportunities. EBM implementation is expected to include development of collaborative and scientific frameworks, training to support an ecosystem-scale approach to cross-sector management at national, regional, and local levels, and pilot projects to develop best practices for implementing EBM at scales relevant to addressing specific resource management objectives. EBM practices implementing the National Ocean Policy can build on earlier multi-agency efforts to address impact avoidance and mitigation on an ecosystems level.

Tasking

Provide input on:

- Principles, goals, and best practices for EBM implementation especially in cross- or multi-sectoral situations
- Strategies to enhance a common understanding of EBM principles, best practices, and latest decision-support tools among decision-makers from multiple levels of government; and mechanisms Federal agencies may use to engage non-Federal partners and stakeholders, including opportunities for outreach and education on the societal benefits of EBM
- Criteria for identifying EBM pilot projects and priority geographic areas for hosting these projects
- Existing and new decision-support tools to implement EBM across multiple sectors

Due Date

Interim Report 6 months from date of first ORAP meeting in 2012

Final Report 9 months from date of first ORAP meeting in 2012

Leveraging Ocean Education Opportunities

Overview

Every student in the Nation should encounter ocean sciences concepts in their K-12 educational experience, and the general public should have access to up-to-date information on the marine environment in informal settings. Federal agencies seek to improve ocean literacy through a variety of programs for students, educators, and the public, including using ocean-focused

topics to teach STEM principles. Increased public understanding of ocean and coastal science and the importance of the ocean in Earth systems is needed to foster a more informed citizenry; create better stewards of ocean, coastal, and Great Lakes resources; and increase awareness of opportunities related to these resources.

Tasking

Building on ORAP's previous input and discussions on ocean education, provide input on:

- Leveraging Federal ocean education efforts to maximize investments
- More effectively linking informal ocean education efforts to education standards

Due Date

12 months from date of first ORAP meeting in 2012

Balancing Ocean Infrastructure with Ocean Research

Overview

Research infrastructure, including but not limited to the Federal fleet, satellites, autonomous underwater vehicles, arrays of in situ observations, and shore-based laboratories, enable us to answer fundamental science questions and provide the means to gather information needed to address urgent societal concerns. In this challenging budget environment, there is a need to consider what is the most useful and efficient way to address the give and take between research portfolios and infrastructure development, operation, and maintenance. The multi-agency funded Ocean Studies Board report "Critical Infrastructure for Ocean Research and Societal Needs in 2030" provides some context for addressing this issue.

Tasking

- Assuming no new funding and building on the ORAP review of Federal ocean observing, provide input on mechanisms to balance the need to advance ocean science frontiers with the need to develop and maintain the infrastructure necessary to access and observe the marine environment. This may include opportunities for Federal agencies to maximize investments in both research and infrastructure, including new technologies, and optimize use of infrastructure and scientific data to address multiple needs.
- Identify barriers to these mechanisms and opportunities

Due Date

18 months from date of first ORAP meeting in 2012

Policy Issues for National Ocean Council Consideration

As the Federal Advisory Committee to the National Ocean Council, ORAP may suggest for the Council's consideration high-level, interagency issues that ORAP members agree may benefit from Council deliberation and/or ORAP input.

National Ocean Council

Tasking

Provide suggestions on issues that ORAP believes the National Ocean Council or ORAP should address. Include the specific questions or concerns on which Council or ORAP input would be focused.

Due Date

Ongoing

Secretary of the Navy Decision:

Approve:  Disapprove: _____